



# Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270  
James T. Bates, *Chief of Staff* • [www.budget.house.gov](http://www.budget.house.gov)

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## FISCAL YEAR 2006 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL – H.R. 2419 Conference Report

### SUMMARY

The conference report accompanying the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill (H.R. 2419; H.Rept. 109-275) provides \$30.495 billion in new budget authority for fiscal year 2006, an amount equal to revised levels recently adopted by the House Appropriations Committee. Consequently, the agreement complies with the provision of the Congressional Budget Act that prohibits consideration of a conference report that exceeds its suballocation.

The conference report, filed on 7 November 2005, also complies with other provisions of the budget resolution, such as those governing advance appropriations and emergency-designated appropriations, neither of which are provided in this legislation.

This is the sixth conference report for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2005 to be completed.

### COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The \$30.495 billion in new budget authority provided by the conference agreement is \$339 million (1.1 percent) over the comparable fiscal year 2005 amount, and an increase of \$750 million (2.5 percent) above the administration request (see Table 1 below).

Outlays are \$869 above prior-year levels, and \$340 million above the request. The cost of the bill is offset slightly by rescissions and deferrals of previously enacted discretionary appropriations and added fees called for in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (discussed in more detail below).

**Table 1: Energy and Water Development**  
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2005 Spending <sup>a</sup>	Administration 2006	302 (b) for 2006	Bill
Budget Authority	30,156	29,745	30,495	30,495
Outlays	29,827	30,356	30,273	30,696

<sup>a</sup> Excludes emergency-designated appropriations.

### COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

As noted, the conference agreement provides budget authority equal to the applicable level designated by the Committee on Appropriations – called the 302(b)

suballocation – and does not violate the Congressional Budget Act. Outlays exceed the revised suballocation by \$423 million, but that does not give rise to a violation of the

Budget Act. Enactment of this legislation also would not cause the aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays

set by the budget resolution to be exceeded, so would not violate that provision of the Budget Act (section 311).

**Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Conference Report**  
(in millions of dollars)

	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	2006 Budget Authority	2006 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Department of Energy . . . . .	24,233	23,911	23,821	24,087	-412	176
<i>National Nuclear Security Administration</i>	9,214	8,876	9,197	9,148	-17	272
<i>Enviro. and Other Defense Activities . . . .</i>	7,724	7,912	7,184	7,344	-540	-568
<i>Energy Programs . . . . .</i>	7,409	7,236	7,469	7,647	60	411
<i>Other Department of Energy . . . . .</i>	-114	-113	-29	-52	85	61
Department of the Interior . . . . .	967	990	1,021	1,074	54	84
Corps of Engineers - Civil Works . . . . .	4,668	4,674	5,382	5,284	714	610
Other . . . . .	<u>288</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>-17</u>	<u>-1</u>
Total . . . . .	30,156	29,827	30,495	30,696	339	869

## DISCUSSION

The modest increase in the conference agreement overall masks the differences in funding priorities it establishes. The conference report provides a \$412 million reduction (-1.7 percent) in discretionary BA to the Department of Energy [DOE] – primarily attributable to a 7 percent (\$540 million) reduction for Environmental and Other Defense Activities (see Table 2 above). At the same time, the bill increases 2005 levels by 15.3 percent for Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works (\$714 million) for dam safety and flood protection.

Other noteworthy aspects of the conference report include:

- *National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA]*– The conference report does not adopt the administration’s proposal to transfer environmental cleanup responsibility to the NNSA.
- *Yucca Mountain* – The conference report provides \$450 million for the Yucca Mountain repository, a decrease of \$127 million below 2005 and \$201 million below the request. The bill is below the request because the schedule for the project has slipped, and fewer funds are needed than were anticipated in February. As a result, the conference agreement also provides \$50 million to develop a spent fuel recycling program.

- *Power Marketing Administrations* – The conference report provides \$250 million for the Power Marketing Administrations, an increase of \$216 million above the request. The conference report does not include the administration’s proposal to use revenues collected from Power Marketing Administrations’ power sales to augment operations and maintenance costs.
- *Bureau of Reclamation [BOR]* – The conference report provides \$987 million to the Department of the Interior’s BOR, which is \$38 million above the 2005 enacted level, and \$114 million above the request.

## OFFSETS

The conference report defers \$257 million in previously appropriated funds for the Clean Coal Technology Initiative until fiscal year 2007, and also rescinds (that is, permanently cancels) \$20 million from the account.

The agreement also increases Nuclear Regulatory Commission fees to levels authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58). This provides an additional \$57 million in offsets to the bill relative to the administration request, and \$36 million relative to the House-passed bill.

Prepared by . . . . . Winnie Chang, Appropriations Analyst  
Daniel J. Kowalski, Director of Budget Review